



## *The President's Daily Brief*

*24 May 1971*

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*Top Secret*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 May 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The opening of India's parliament will add a new forum for denunciation of Pakistan. (Page 1)

Podgorny is reported to be going to Egypt. (Page 2)

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## INDIA-PAKISTAN

*The opening of the Indian parliament today will provide an additional forum for anti-Pakistan denunciations and grist for the Indian press campaign of sympathy for the Bangla Desh secessionist movement. It is also likely to add to the pressures on Prime Minister Gandhi for diplomatic recognition of an independent East Bengal or for outright invasion of East Pakistan.*

*Mrs. Gandhi, in a statement on 22 May, again pointed to the "heavy and crushing burden" imposed on India by the refugees from East Pakistan and to the growing potential for communal conflicts throughout India because of the fact that so many of the refugees are Hindus. Reports of genocidal actions by the Pakistani Army--increasingly described as a "plot against Hindus"--have already resulted in violence against Indian Muslims living near the refugee camps. New Delhi is also concerned that there are Pakistani infiltrators in the camps.*

*President Yahya's public statement on 21 May urging the return of the more than three million refugees is likely to be of little help either in stemming the flow or in lowering tensions with India. Although he acknowledged for the first time that many "innocent persons" have fled in addition to "miscreants and infiltrators," he put most of the blame for the exodus on India. His claims that life in East Pakistan is "fast returning to normal" and that all "law-abiding citizens" will be welcome are not likely to persuade either Bangla Desh supporters or Hindus that it is safe to return home.*

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USSR-EGYPT

Soviet President Podgorny will go to Egypt on Tuesday for three days of talks, according to Arab press reports.

*Such a visit, if it materializes, would be the most tangible sign so far of Soviet anxiety over Sadat's recent purge. There is evidence that Moscow is confused over Sadat's changes and would welcome an opportunity to obtain both an explanation and reassurances from him. A high-level visit would also help refurbish the public image of close Soviet-Egyptian ties, which has been tarnished by press speculation about the recent events.*

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CHILE-CUBA



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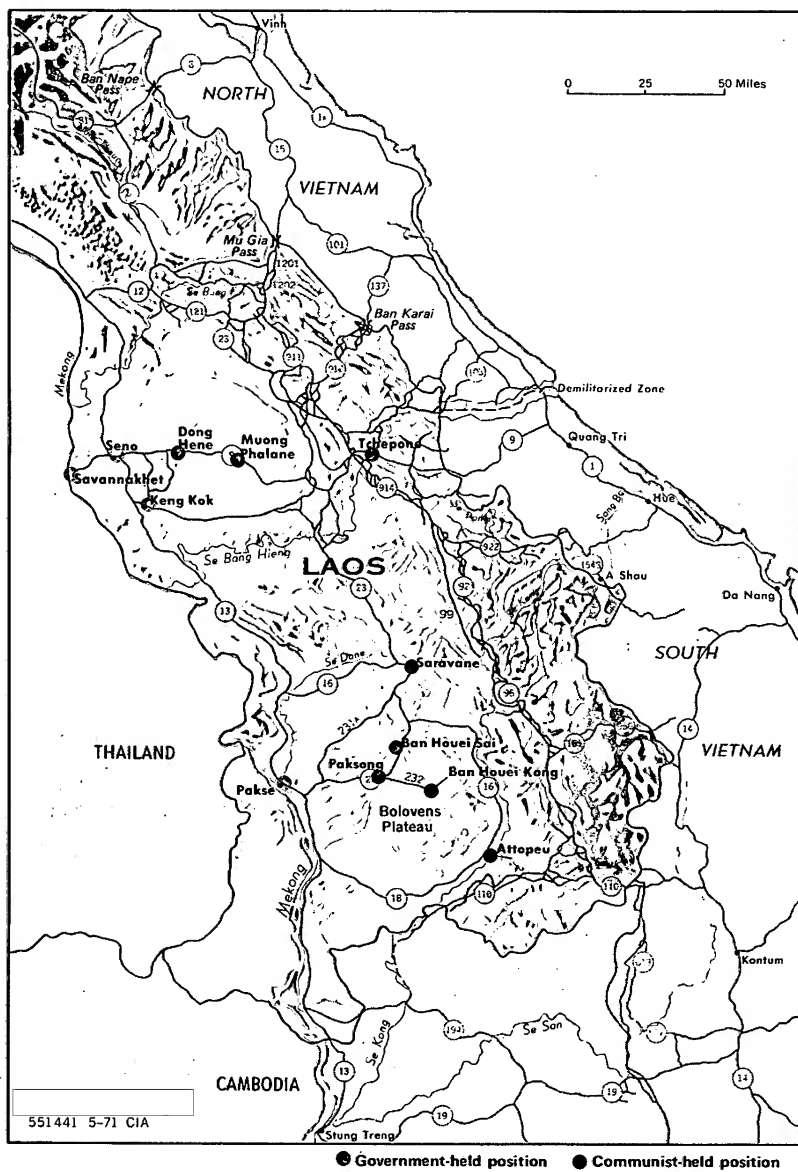


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## NOTES

South Vietnam: The daily bombardments of allied targets just south of the eastern Demilitarized Zone since 19 May may be the Communists' most concerted series of shellings in this area of the past three years. There are indications that this activity has not yet run its course and that the Communists still plan attacks in some other areas during their present offensive phase. There were scattered engagements during the past week in and around the A Shau Valley, where allied troops are operating, and some heavy ground fighting in the central highlands. No comparable increase in Communist activity was noted farther south, however, where Communist offensive capabilities are more limited.

Laos: The government irregular task force which has been trying to secure high ground around the Communist-held town of Paksong on the Bolovens Plateau ran into fairly stiff resistance during the weekend. A few miles west of Paksong, however, Lao Army units reoccupied a village on Route 23. Although there is still no evidence that North Vietnamese forces plan to attack Pakse, the town remains in a state of alarm and confusion. In the central panhandle, clashes continue around Dong Hene, but there has been no significant Communist westward movement on Route 9 toward Seno, which [redacted] is an enemy target.

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USSR-Cuba: A Soviet submarine tender entered the Caribbean Sea on 22 May and is moving westward toward Cuba. This is the same ship that operated in Cuban waters until early April. TASS has announced that the tender and one submarine will visit Cuba in late May and early June. [redacted]

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[redacted] According to TASS, the ships will replenish their supplies and give their crews shore leave while visiting Cuba.

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Argentina: The Trotskyite People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) claimed responsibility for the kidnapping yesterday of the honorary British consul in Rosario and says it will stage a week of terrorism to mark the second anniversary of the Cordoba and Rosario riots. The ERP, the largest terrorist group in Argentina, may have selected Consul Sylvester partly because he is local manager of the Swift Packing Company, which has been a frequent target of nationalist invective. The Argentine military is likely to react to a new wave of terrorism by pressing President Lanusse to take tougher internal measures.

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